

THE BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

Whole No. 1239.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 1851.

Vol. XLV. No. 15.

CONTENTS.

ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.	
The Causes of Insanity. An Address delivered before the Norfolk (Mass.) District Med. Society. By Edward Jarvis, M.D., of Dorchester	289
Reduction of Dislocation of the Femur on the Dorsum Ilii. By Samuel A. Cartwright, M.D., New Orleans	305
A Post-Mortem Examination of the New York Register of Medicine and Pharmacy. By the Editor of that Periodical	309
Operations for Strangulated Hernia. By Geo. Heaton, M.D., Boston	310
Syphilitic Inoculation—Letter from Paris. By D. D. Elsie, M.D., of Boston	313
EDITORIAL, AND MED. INTELLIGENCE.	
Boston Medical School	314
Dental Improvement	314

School for Idiots	315
The Plague at Madeira	315
Malgaigne's Operative Surgery	315
Carpenter's Physiology	316
Maclean's Surgical Anatomy	316
Sylvester Graham—Dr. Alcott's Remarks on his Death	316
Remarkable Case of complete and long-continued Paralysis	317
Death of Dr. Bacleley, author of the Lunatic Lectures for 1851	318
Officers of the Middlesex East (Mass.) District Med. Society	318
Officers of the Boston Dispensary	319
Nature's Chemistry inexplicable	319
The Custody of Inebriates	320
Medical Miscellany	320
Notice to Readers and Correspondents	320
Deaths of Physicians	320
Weekly Report of Deaths in Boston	320

TREMONT STREET MEDICAL SCHOOL.—In Boston, over 33 TREMONT Row.—The annual course of instruction in the Tremont School commences this year on the first day of September. This School was instituted in Boston, in 1838, for the purpose of giving to private pupils a thorough course of instruction, by lectures and examinations, throughout the year. Two hundred pupils, including a large part of the recent academic graduates of Harvard University, who have devoted themselves to the study of medicine, and many others from all sections of the country, have received their professional education, or some portion of it, at this institution. By an act of the Legislature a charter has been conferred upon this School, which is thus enabled to avail itself of all the privileges which the laws of the State have conferred or may hereafter confer upon incorporated medical institutions.

Exercises in the different branches are given daily or oftener, from the close of the University lectures in March, until their commencement in November, with the exception of the month of August, during which most of the usual labors of the School are suspended. During the session of the University Medical School, examinations are held three times weekly on the subjects of the lectures.

The following gentlemen are instructors in this School, during the present year, in the several departments of medical science, forming a complete and thorough course.

JACOB BIGELOW, M.D.
D. HUMPHREYS STORER, M.D.
J. B. S. JACKSON, M.D.
OLIVER W. HOLMES, M.D.
HENRY J. BIGELOW, M.D.
SAMUEL CAROT, M.D.
SAMUEL KNEELAND, M.D.

Practical Anatomy is taught under the immediate direction of the Teacher of Anatomy and Physiology, assisted by the Demonstrator of the Medical School of the University. Ample means of pursuing this important branch of study, and for the practice of the more important surgical operations, are provided without additional expense to the student.

CLINICAL INSTRUCTION.

This essential branch of a medical education is made an object of especial attention. There will be clinical visits at the Massachusetts General Hospital, in the Medical Department, by Drs. Bigelow, Jackson and Storer, with Lectures at stated intervals; and constant attention to the practical study of Auscultation and Percussion, for which ample opportunities occur in the practice of the Hospital.

Clinical Instruction in Surgery will be given at the same institution by Dr. Henry J. Bigelow.

Ample opportunities are afforded for experience in Obstetric practice.

PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS.

In addition to the medical and surgical practice and operations of the Massachusetts General Hospital, the Students will have admission to the Eye and Ear Infirmary, through the politeness of the Surgeons of that Institution; and also to the institution for the treatment of Diseases of the Skin, by permission of Dr. Durkee.

MEANS OF ILLUSTRATION.

The large collections of healthy and morbid specimens in the Warren Anatomical Museum, and the Cabinet of the Boston Society for Medical Improvement, will be made available for the purposes of instruction under the direction of Dr. Jackson, the Curator of both these collections.

LIBRARY.

During the whole Summer term, the Students of the Tremont Street Medical School will have free access to, and the privilege of taking Books from the Library of the Massachusetts Medical College, now consisting of about 1500 volumes, and rapidly increasing by a large annual appropriation, devoted to the purchase of Books most useful and acceptable to the Student.

Application may be made to **FR. BIGELOW**, Summer street, Boston. A new Catalogue of the past and present Members of the School, with other details, may be had gratis, by applying, post-paid, to Mr. Burnett, Apothecary, 23 Tremont Row, at W. D. Ticknor's Bookstore, or at the Med. Journal Office. The Room of the School, at 33 Tremont Row, over Mr. Burnett's Apothecary store, is open to Students from 6 A. M. to 10 P. M., furnished with Plates, Preparations, Articles of the *Materia Medica*, &c.

TERMS.

For the Summer Term (from March 1st to November 1st), \$30. For the Winter Term (from November 1st to March 1st), \$10. For a Year, \$40.
Boston, August, 1851. aug 27—tf

REMOVAL.—Dr. CHANNING has removed to No. 23 Somerset Street.
Oct. 23—4w. WALTER CHANNING, M.D.

SARATOGA POWDERS—or Rochelle, Seidlitz, and Soda Powders, our package equal to six boxes of the above—price 75 cents. These will be found a great convenience to travellers, persons residing in the country, invalids, and to all deprived of a soda fountain. Put up and sold by J. RUSSELL, SUFFOLK, 23 Tremont Row, opposite Boston Museum. April 20—tf

MEDICAL JOURNAL ADVERTISING SHEET.

BOYLSTON MEDICAL SCHOOL. Incorporated, 1817.—The Fall Session of this School will commence on the first of September, 1881. Its object is to give as complete a course of instruction by recitations, lectures and practical study, as can be given in this country in a period of three years. The plan of the School differs from that of any other School in the country, and with the advantages held out by them, the instructors hope to send into the profession thorough students only.

SPECIAL COURSES OF LECTURES are delivered before the School upon

Diseases of the Ear by Dr. Williams.
Diseases of the Ear by Dr. E. H. Clarke.
Minor Surgery and Bandaging by Dr. H. G. Clark.
Auscultation and Percussion by Dr. Thayer.

Further information may be obtained by application to any of the instructors.

JOHN BACON, JR., M.D., Instructor in Chemistry and Toxicology, 30 Crescent Place.

CHARLES E. BUCKINGHAM, M.D., Physician to the House of Indebteds, Instructor in Obstetrics and Diseases of Women and Children, 8 Harrison Avenue.

EDWARD H. CLARKE, M.D., Instructor in Materia Medica and Therapeutics, and Aural Surgery, 21 Row street.

W. HENRY THAYER, M.D., Instructor in Pathology and Legal Medicine.

HENRY C. CLARK, M.D., one of the Surgeons of the Massachusetts General Hospital, Instructor in Principles and Practice of Surgery, 35 Salem street.

HENRY W. WILLIAMS, M.D., Instructor in Principles and Practice of Medicine, and Ophthalmic Surgery, 10 Essex street.

GEORGE H. GAY, M.D., Instructor in Anatomy, Flollis street, corner of Tremont.

JOHN C. DALTON, JR., M.D., Professor of Physiology of the Buffalo Medical College, Instructor in Physiology and Microscopy.

Catalogues containing the plan and objects of the School, may be had on application at the bookstore of George W. Briggs, 376 Washington street, under the room of the School; at the bookstore of Ticknor, Reed & Fields, corner of Washington and School streets; and at Joseph Burnett's, Apothecary, 33 Tremont Row.

WINSLOW LEWIS, President.

Boston, Aug. 29, 1881.

11

LACE STOCKINGS, KNEE CAPS, &c., for relieving Varicose and enlarged Veins, Anasarca, swellings, &c., in the Legs: Abdominal Supports, Trusses, Shoulder Braces, Elastic Body Belts, Siss pessaries, Spinal Supports, and Leg Instruments, also, Artificial Legs, Hands, Arms, and Premium Spring Crutches, for which the first medal was awarded to J. M. & Co., at the late Fair.—Price from \$7.00 to \$10.00 per pair. Improved double and single Crutches (without springs), from \$5.00 to \$6.00 per pair.

These articles sent to any part of the Union or Canada, on the receipt of proper measurement, and a good fit in every case warranted.

(Established 1818.) JAMES MILLER & CO., (many years with Sheildrake, Bigg & Co., London.) Surgical and Anatomical Mechanicians, Boston, 21-3 Bromfield street, up stairs.

References.—Drs. J. C. Warren, M. S. Perry, J. Mason Warren, S. D. Townsend, D. H. Storer—and J. V. C. Smith, Editor of Boston Medical and Surgical Journal. Jan. 8.—clawtry

MANGANESE.—Sulphate, Carbonate, Chloride, Iodide, Tartrate, Nitrate, Acetate and Tannate, Syrup Iodide Manganese.

Manufactured and sold by

PHILBRICK, CARPENTER & CO.

Manganese and its preparations have been used in France with great advantage in cases of Chlorosis, Paludism, Scrophulous Scirrhus, Constitutional Syphilis, &c. &c. Observations and results may be found in Brailiwaite's Retrospect, No. XX.

Old

TANNIC ACID.—American, English and German Tannic Acid of superior quality, for sale by PHILBRICK, CARPENTER & CO.,

Chemists, and Physicians' Druggists, Oct. 16. 160 Washington st.

PHILOSOPHICAL AND CHEMICAL GLASS WARE, (Bohemian Glass.)—Woolie's Bottles, Retorts, Bell Glasses, Precipitating Jars, Chemical Flasks, Beaker Glasses, Assay Jars, will be in store Jan. 1st, 1881, and will be sold to Physicians and others upon the most favorable terms, by

Nov. 12. PHILBRICK, CARPENTER & CO.

"STONE'S PATENT ARTIFICIAL LEGS."

Manufactured at Boston, 231 Washington street, by W. C. STONE & CO., at the Supporter and Truss Establishment of A. F. Bartlett. These Legs are constructed on a principle entirely new, and of the highest importance, in which the knee-point is made safe at every step, and the fear of falling is of course removed. The highest approbation is given to this improvement, both from eminent surgeons and from unfortunates themselves. They are light and of sufficient strength, can be worn with ease, and are easily adjusted. This is the only substitute that has the self-sustaining principle attached. It has recently been Patented. All orders for this article, addressed to W. C. Stone & Co., 231 Washington street, Boston, will be attended to with promptness.

W. C. STONE & CO.

S17—ep1w—cop2m—lan3m

DISEASES OF THE EYE AND EAR.—Dr. J. H. DIX will, from this date, relinquish general practice, and attend exclusively to the medical and surgical treatment of Diseases of the Eye and Ear. Tremont street, opposite Tremont House.

February 11, 1882.

epf

CITY OF BOSTON.—City Physician's Office and Vaccine Institution, No. 21 Court Square.

Hour for Vaccination, from Twelve to One o'clock, daily.

HENRY G. CLARK,

Residence 95 Salem Street. City Physician.

March 12—copf

DISEASES OF THE THROAT AND LUNGS. INHALATION, &c.—The Subscriber continues to treat these diseases by Inhalation of the powder of the Nitrate, Lycopodium, &c., also with the Laryngeal Shower Spraying and Probing.

Inhalers, with the Powder, will be sent, by Express or otherwise, as ordered, to any part of the country, to physicians or patients. I have found this powder highly serviceable in ulcerated sore throat, bronchitis, laryngitis and incipient phthisis, and the testimony of several physicians who have tried it in various places has been greatly in favor of its use.

W. M. CORNELL, M.D.,

Oct 23—copf 436 Washington st., Boston

POND & MORSE.—Dealers in Genuine Drugs, Medicines, &c., Main Street, Rutland, Vt. Physicians furnished as above at the lowest Boston prices. A large assortment of Glass Ware, Surgical Instruments, &c., always on hand.

N. B.—Patent Medicines not manufactured or sold. Sept. 1, 1881.

S10—tl

ROBINSON'S PATENT FESSARY.—may be obtained, Wholesale and Retail, of Aaron P. Richardson, M.D., No. 36 Green street, Boston.

May 23—tl

PURE COD LIVER OIL. carefully prepared

only from fresh and healthy livers, by Joseph Burnett, Apothecary, No. 33 Tremont Row, Boston.

Dr. J. C. B. Williams, an eminent English physician, after prescribing it in 400 cases of consumption (in 234 of which he preserved full notes), states in the London Journal of Medicine:—"As the result of experience, confirmed by a rational consideration of its mode of action, the pure fresh oil from the liver of the cod is more beneficial in the treatment of pulmonary consumption, than any other agent, medicinal, dietetic, or regimenal, that has yet been employed."

June 18—tl

ELIXIR OF OPIUM.—Made from the formula of the Philadelphia Journal of Pharmacy, and is intended to be a substitute for the "popular" medicine called McMan's Elixir. This is a preparation of Opium without Narcotine, and the strength is the same as Tinct. Opii. Manufactured by

PHILBRICK, CARPENTER & CO.

Successors to PHILBRICK & TRAFLET.

July 23.

MICROSCOPES.—Joseph Burnett, No. 33 Tremont Row, Agent for the sale of Spencer's Microscopes, has just received two instruments from this celebrated maker, which he offers for sale. Also, a full assortment of Alexander Beth's Preparations of Microscopic Anatomy.

July 23—tl

PHYSICIANS' OFFICE WARE AND UTENSILS.—Mortars of wedgewood, iron, glass and porcelain; Pill Tiles, Pill Machines, Spatulas, Funnel, Scales and Weights, Graduated Measures, &c., for sale by PHILBRICK & TRAFLET.

Nov. 12.

The painful affections and emotions, grief, anxiety and disappointment, produce no small portion of the cases of insanity: 2882 out of 22,113, or about 13 per cent. of all whose origin is known.

The depressing emotions are more injurious to mental health, as well as to physical health, than the exhilarating ones. Many are the cases of insanity charged to distress, and anxiety, and trouble, to losses, and dangers, and fears, but very few to hope and bright anticipations, to joy and success. One can revel with impunity in almost unbounded cheerfulness and enjoyment and hope, but the mind falters under carking care, and wasting grief, and harrowing anxiety. "Laugh and be fat," though said as mere comedy, is yet a serious physiological axiom as applied to the body, and it is no less true as applied to the mind.

Many of these emotional causes of insanity come upon all men. All are called to grieve for the loss of friends. Most suffer in doubt and anxiety from the sickness of relatives. These sources of lunacy seem to be necessarily inherent in our constitution. But there are other sources of grief which error, wrong and vice produce unnecessarily. Domestic troubles, variances, quarrels, the misconduct of members of the family, the ill-treatment from husbands or parents or other kindred, the difficulties among neighbors or associates, are somewhat fruitful sources of mental disorder.

The maddening passions—anger, hate, malignity, jealousy, pride, and violence of temper, have a similar disturbing influence on the health of the mind; while the tender and generous passions of love and charity give it serenity, and self-control, and power.

Through one or the other of these channels, through either the mind, the emotions, or the passions, most of the moral causes of insanity operate.

The relations of property and of poverty to man, the labors and the anxieties, the hopes and the disappointments, connected with the one, and the fear, distress and suffering, connected with the other, produced 2280 out of 22,113, or 10 per cent. of the cases whose causes were known and reported. The mental labor in the management of business has the same effect on the exercise of the brain as study, and may be as excessive and as injurious; and when great anxiety is added to this, especially in business of doubtful issue, as in speculations, or dealing in lottery tickets, or any matters where hope is great but on uncertain ground, as in lawsuits, there is, or may be, the three-fold cause of mental disorder—excessive cerebral action, anxiety and disappointment.

Poverty itself produces the same result, and brings with it much of the mental labor of property without its supporting aids. There is then a struggle to obtain, with less power to sustain the effort, and accompanied with the depressing care and anxiety, without the hope to buoy up the spirits and energize the mind.

Religion acts powerfully on the mind and heart; consequently it affects the brain through the intellect and the affections. There is a great struggle to comprehend the doctrines and the mysteries. There is intense exhilaration joined with the hopes, and an agonizing anxiety joined with the fears, that are connected with the eternal interests.

There is so great a prize to strive for and to gain, and so terrible a destruction to be avoided, that the mind labors with all-absorbing energy to secure that which is offered, and escape that which is threatened, and the over-tasked brain sometimes falters and then acts with uncertainty.

In other cases the insanity assumes the religious form, although religion, or its study, or its hopes, are not the cause. Dyspepsia, hepatic disorder, or low health in any other form, or any other cause, may depress the cerebral energies; then the mind becomes enfeebled, the spirits low, and hope gives place to doubt, or fear, or perhaps despair. Then the thoughts rest upon some dreaded evil, which the imagination creates. Then a man sometimes fears poverty, or that his family or friends are in trouble, or that he shall not accomplish some desired purpose. And frequently he imagines the worst evil that can be presented to him; then he looks to his eternal, his greatest interests, and considers these all as lost; and believes he is ruined forever. With some reason left, he looks for the cause of so great an evil, and finds it in himself, and thinks he is thoroughly wicked, that his sins are beyond the reach of pardon, and therefore his destruction must necessarily follow.

The various causes of insanity connected with religion, its excitements and its depressions, produced 1867 out of 22,113, or about 8 per cent. of all whose anterior history is known.

I have thus noticed, either specially or generally, the various circumstances, conditions, habits and influences that are supposed to disturb mental health. Those already known and stated are very many, and we have no reason to suppose there may not be very many more. They are here and about us, and everywhere in the civilized world, and, to some extent, in the savage world. They are inherent in the very organization of some; but most of them come from abroad, or from the indiscreet use or abuse of one's own powers of body or mind.

It is a melancholy consideration to know that some or many of these causes of insanity are peculiarly abundant in this country and in this age, and some of them are increasing in frequency and disturbing force. Almost the whole class of accidents, injuries and exposures has increased. With the new improvements in the mechanic arts, the multiplication of machinery, the new and sometimes uncontrolled, if not uncontrollable, motive powers, and with the new modes of travel, more accidents happen, more injuries are inflicted, and in their way they multiply the causes and the cases of insanity.

In course of the same progress of improvement, there are more chemical agents discovered, and numberless new applications of this science and its discoveries to practical use in the common arts and business of life. Men are therefore more exposed to minerals, acids, gases, paints, dye-stuffs, and combustible and explosive elements or mixtures, which are sometimes more or less injurious to health, or cause accidents dangerous to those who are connected with them, and consequently multiply the causes and the cases of lunacy.

The causes connected with mental labor, in its manifold applications, have increased and are increasing continually. In the progress of the age, education has made rapid advances both in reaching a wider cir-

cle of persons and in multiplying the subjects of study. The improvements in the education of children and youth have increased their mental labors, and imposed more burdens upon their brains, in the present than in the preceding ages. The proportion of children who are taught in schools increases every year in the United States, and in most civilized nations. There are more and more of those whose love of knowledge, whose sense of duty, whose desire of gratifying friends, and whose ambition, impel them to make their utmost exertion to become good scholars. Thus they task their minds unduly, and sometimes exhaust their cerebral energies and leave their brains a prey to other causes which may derange them afterwards.*

The new sciences which have been lately discovered, or the old sciences that were formerly confined to the learned, but are now simplified and popularized, and offered to the young as a part of their education, multiply the subjects of study and increase the mental labor of almost all in schools.

Men and classes of men, such as in the last century would have thought of nothing but how they should obtain their bread, are now induced to study subjects and pursue sciences, and burden their brains with great and sometimes with excessive labor. New fields of investigation have been laid open within the last hundred, and especially within the last fifty, years. New inducements are offered, so that a greater variety of tastes is invited to their peculiar feasts of knowledge. Many more now study phrenology, metaphysics, mathematics, physiology, chemistry, botany, and other branches of natural history, to say nothing of mesmerism, biology, &c., and thus they compel their brains to labor with more energy and exhausting zeal than those of any former generation. In this multiplication of students there are some who attempt to grapple with subjects that they cannot master, and sink under the burden of perplexity which they cannot unravel.

In this general increase of mental activity, some men become interested and give their minds intensely to the study of public topics, politics, State or National affairs, and the subjects of legislation, the banking system, tariff, anti-rent, anti-masonry, the license question, &c., or to public moral questions, anti-slavery, temperance, and general or special reforms, any or all of which impose upon them great anxiety and mental labor.

In this country, where no son is necessarily confined to the work or employment of his father, but all the fields of labor, of profit and of honor are open to whomsoever will put on the harness and enter therein, and all are invited to join the strife for that which may be gained in each, many are in a transition state, from the lower and less desirable to the higher and more desirable conditions. They are struggling for that which costs them mental labor and anxiety and pain. The mistake or the ambition of some leads them to aim at that which they cannot reach, to strive

* In an admirable lecture recently published by Dr. Isaac Ray, the superintendent of the Butler Hospital for the Insane, the errors and effects of the indiscreet and excessive action of the brain in the education of youth are clearly set forth by the philosophical author. This little work ought to be in the hands of every parent and teacher of youth.

for more than they can grasp, and their mental powers are strained to their utmost tension; they labor in agitation; and they end in frequent disappointment. Their minds stagger under the disproportionate burden; they are perplexed with the variety of insurmountable obstacles, and they are exhausted with the ineffectual labor.

But in an uneducated community, or where the people are overborne by despotic government or inflexible customs, where men are born in castes and die without overstepping their native condition, where the child is content with the pursuit and the fortune of his father, and has no hope or expectation of any other, there these undue mental excitements and struggles do not happen, and men's brains are not confused with new plans, nor exhausted with the struggle for a higher life, nor overborne with the disappointment in failure. Of course, in such a state of society these causes of insanity cannot operate. But in proportion as education prevails and emancipates the new generations from the trammels and the condition of the old, and the manifold ways of life are opened to all, the danger of misapplication of the cerebral forces and the mental powers increases, and men may think and act indiscreetly and become insane.

The same is distinctly manifested in the pursuits of business. There are many new trades and new employments; there are new schemes of increasing wealth, new articles of merchandize, and speculations in many things of new and multiplying kinds. All these increase the activity of the commercial world. The energy of men of new enterprises gives a hope of actual value and a momentary market value to some new kinds of property. The consequent inflation or expansion of prices, to a greater or less degree, makes many kinds of business more uncertain, and many men's fortunes more precarious. This increases the doubts and perplexities of business, the necessity of more labor and watchfulness, greater fear and anxiety, and the end is more frequently in loss, and failure of plans, and mental disturbance.

Besides these uncertainties which may happen to any, there are more that enter the free and open avenues to occupations, which hold out high and flattering promises, and for which they are unprepared, in which they must struggle with greater labor and anxiety than others, and in which they must be more frequently disappointed.

Besides these causes of mental disturbance in the new and untried fields of study and business and commerce, there are other causes in the social position, which is subject to like change. Many are passing, or have passed, from a comparatively retired, simple, and unpretending, to the showy, the fashionable, or the cultivated style of life. In this transition state there must be more mental labor for those who are passing from one condition to the other; there must be much thought and toil, much hope and fear, and much anxiety and vexation to effect the passage and to sustain one's self in the new position.

With the increase of wealth and fashion, there come also more artificial life, more neglect of the rational laws of self-government, more unseasonable hours for food and for sleep, more dissipation of the open, allowable and genteel kind, and also more of the baser, disreputable and concealed sorts.

Consequent upon the new labor and new positions and new style of life, there comes more low health, from exhausting and perplexing cares and toils of business, of social life and fashion, and from frequent irregular habits of diet and regimen. The secondary consequences of impaired health, of diminished vital forces, dyspepsia, debility, consumption, gout or other disease, are manifested in the brain; and then nervousness frequently, and insanity sometimes, follows.

Thus we see, that with advancing civilization, and especially in the present age and in our own country, there is a great development of activity of mind, and this is manifested in most of the employments, in the conduct of the mechanic arts, agriculture, trade and commerce—in the attention to the professions, and to other subjects of study, and to politics. This increase of mental activity and of cerebral action comes without a corresponding increase of discretion to guide it, and of prudence to restrain it.

And this proneness to mental action must prevail until the world learn the nature and the limit of their mental faculties, the connection of these with the brain, and the connection of the brain with all the other physical organs, and govern themselves accordingly.

In review of this history of the causes of insanity, we find that very few of them diminish with the progress of the world. Some are stationary, remaining about the same in the savage, the barbarous and the civilized state, while many of them increase and create more and more mental disorder.

Insanity is, then, a part of the price which we pay for civilization. The causes of the one increase with the developments and results of the other. This is not necessarily the case, but it is so now. The increase of knowledge, the improvements in the arts, the multiplication of comforts, the amelioration of manners, the growth of refinement and the elevation of morals, do not of themselves disturb men's cerebral organs and create mental disorder. But with them come more opportunities and rewards for great and excessive mental action, more uncertain and hazardous employments, and consequently more disappointments, more means and provocations for sensual indulgence, more dangers of accidents and injuries, more groundless hopes and more painful struggle to obtain that which is beyond reach, or to effect that which is impossible.

The deductions, then, drawn from the prevalence and effects of causes, corroborate the opinion of nearly all writers, whether founded on positive and known facts, on analogy, on computation or on conjecture, that insanity is an increasing disease. In this opinion all agree.

REDUCTION OF DISLOCATIONS OF THE FEMUR.

To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.

DEAR SIR,—In your valuable Journal, No. 2, Vol. XLV., August, 1851, you have re-published an article from the Buffalo Medical Journal, read before the Medical Society of Rochester, N. Y., entitled "*Dislocation of the femur on the dorsum ilii, reducible without pulleys or any other mechanical power,*" with an editorial caption of its being a

"*novel method.*" I beg leave respectfully to apprise you that you are mistaken in supposing it to be a "*novel method*" originating in Rochester. By turning to the first number of the first volume of the New Orleans Medical and Surgical Journal, published in May, 1844, you will perceive that it is an old method, first reclaimed from the chaos of blundering empiricism and brought under the empire of the laws of science, many years ago, by an old subscriber to your Journal—your obedient servant.

Unlike Dr. Reid, I did not quote my own cases reduced by the method advised, as I could have done, but preferred, for obvious reasons, to prove its practicability by quoting cases recorded in the standard works on surgery, where the method I advocated was accidentally pursued and the reduction effected, without the operators being apprised of the governing principle that restored the bone to its socket, and as a matter of course not profiting by their own experience.

Since the publication of Dr. Reid, a number of medical writers in Boston and New York have wasted paper in proving what every well-read surgeon ought to know, that Dr. Reid is not the first to have reduced luxations of the femur by the method he has described. Dr. James M. Smith has published an article in the 10th number of your Journal, October 8, 1851, giving the credit of the discovery to the late Prof. Nathan Smith. That Prof. Smith reduced more dislocations of the hip-joint than any other surgeon, by deviating from the rules of the regular method, is very probable. When the usual method failed, Dr. Physick, as well as many other operators, was in the habit of placing the patient in a variety of postures with a view of profiting by the chapter of accidents, as it was not unknown that accidental reduction occasionally occurred in some odd postures of the limb and body. That Prof. Smith, although the Nestor of American surgery, was unacquainted with the principle governing the reduction in such cases, plainly appears from his advising "*the making of bending movements like those which violence employs in producing dislocations,*" and from his supposing that the benefits of the method consisted "*in gaining a greater mechanical advantage because we use the bone as a lever, on the long arm of which we impress the force.*" (See quotations from Smith's Medical and Surgical Memoirs, quoted by James M. Smith, M.D., Boston Medical and Surgical Journal, Vol. XLV. pages 189, 190, Oct. 1851.) It is evident from these extracts, that the old mechanical idea of force was uppermost in Prof. Smith's mind—force, according to him, like the *violence producing dislocations.*

He carried the thigh upward towards the shoulder of the patient, not with a view of placing the fascia enveloping the muscles in its original relaxed condition, as it grew in the fœtus in utero—not with a view of relieving the gluteus maximus of the tonic spasm affecting its fibres from an approximation of its points of attachment by bringing down the head of the bone—not with a view of relieving the tension of the six abductors; but to gain greater force by using the bone as a lever and the edge of the pelvis as the fulcrum.

After long pondering over the cases of dislocation reduced by accident,

and those reported as having occurred in the practice of a number of surgeons by using more or less force in a variety of fractures, the truth flashed into my mind that force had nothing to do with it; that nothing more was necessary than to study anatomy and physiology anew to find the principle to direct the hand of the operator how to place the body of the patient and the dislocated limb in a position the most favorable to enable the muscles themselves, with little or no other external assistance than that afforded by the hands of the operator, to effect the reduction by calling into play the laws inherent in the muscular structure. After having discovered the principle and reduced it to practice, I composed an elaborate essay on dislocations of the hip-joint, containing the results of my investigations, and read the same to the Natchez Medical Society, which was, by its order, subsequently published in the New Orleans Medical and Surgical Journal in 1844. It is more full and explicit than that of Dr. Reid, lately published in Buffalo, Boston, and New York, as it not only gives similar directions in regard to posture and the necessary manipulations to effect the reduction, but it contains the rationale of the process and an anatomical demonstration of the superiority of the physiological over the usual mechanical method of extension and counter-extension. The late publications in 1851 have only told half the merits of the operation by the physiological method I advised in 1844, as it will be seen it is applicable to old as well as to recent cases, a fact that the claimant of the discovery in 1851 will readily perceive by reading the details of the same discovery, published in New Orleans in 1844. Having full confidence in the merits of the newly-discovered physiological method over the old plan of mechanical violence in reducing dislocations of the hip-joint, I turned my bantling out into the medical world to force its way through the obstacles, that the ridicule of the weaker brethren and the prejudices of the learned always cast around every important discovery coming from Nazareth or any unexpected quarter. It is more with pleasure, than with any other feeling, that I perceive the discovery is claimed by Dr. Reid and a number of others, because claims set up to paternity are the surest means of giving growth and vigor to any newborn truth. It was not until the French claimed the discovery of the virtues of large doses of the sulphate of quinine in the exacerbation of certain fevers and in some forms of pneumonic and gastric inflammations, that the practice of Drs. Perrine, McPheeters, and myself, who gave large doses of quinine in fevers anterior to the pretended discovery of the French, ceased to be ridiculed as empirical and began to be imitated. We used quinine in large doses, eight grains, every two hours, with almost invariable success in a class of fevers during the height of the exacerbation, with pulse 140 to 150 (apt to be fatal under the old treatment), and at the end of five years we had won by the superiority of the method the most of the practice among the people; but we could count only one convert among the physicians, Dr. James Metcalf, who joined us, claiming coeval priority with the triple discoverers. Through his brother, Dr. Volney Metcalf, subsequently a student in Paris, the French were induced to test the merits of the quinine practice of the Natchez physicians. In the Medical Recorder, Vol. 9, page 241, published in Philadelphia, April, 1826, I made the first announcement of the

febrifuge virtues of large doses of the sulphate of quinine in certain fevers, given without regard to exacerbation or remission, in 8 gr. doses, every two hours. In the 10th volume of the same work, published the same year, pages 57, 58, and 59, I recorded the efficacy of the same article in the same high doses, in certain forms of pneumonic inflammations. Yet, with the exception of Dr. Metcalf, no other physician in the Union, that I am aware of, adopted the quinine practice until about the year 1831, when Dr. Thomas Fearn, of Huntsville, Ala., made a successful trial of it. Dr. Cathy Sehorn, of York, Ill., the subsequent year, fell a victim, it is said, to experiments on his own person with much larger doses than those I had recommended in the Medical Recorder. In the mean time the experiments with the large doses, made in France, having proved successful, many physicians, in different quarters, adopted the quinine practice and found it to be safe and effectual beyond their most sanguine expectations. That practice, first adopted by Drs. Perrine, McPheeters, and myself, and published in the Medical Recorder more than a quarter of a century ago, as our peculiar practice, has only within a few years past made its way to the favorable notice of the profession.

With this experience in regard to the slow progress of the important truth of the febrifuge virtues of large doses of quinine in an extensive class of fevers, apt to be fatal without a liberal use of that article, I am not surprised that the discovery of a principle, leading to a safe, certain and expeditious reduction of dislocations of the hip-joint, by substituting the laws of physiology for physical force, should have been seven years before the public without attracting attention to its merits. It was expecting too much to suppose that the present generation would profit by the discovery, considering that it takes longer to correct the errors of education than to teach new truths to the ignorant. Even at this late day, the experience, which has been accumulating for a quarter of a century, and of late years in geometrical progression, proving incontestably the febrifuge virtues of large doses of quinine in curing certain dangerous fevers, often cutting them short in their incipient state by what has been called the *abortive method*, is lost on a large portion of the profession—the prejudices of education walling out truth. The impression that new truths make upon the mind is often so obscure and faint, that when accident directs the attention to it, the idea, like seed long before sown in the mind, unnoticed and forgotten, shoots forth and is apt to be mistaken for an original thought. Hence so many have claimed originality in discovering the febrifuge properties of quinine in large doses, and hence the mistake of Dr. Reid, of Rochester, in supposing that he is the original discoverer of a better and surer method of reducing dislocations of the hip-joint, than the painful and uncertain one in common use, founded not on anatomical structure and physiological laws, but on mere mechanical force. Having cited the proofs, drawn from the records of the science of medicine, rightfully attaching two important discoveries to the memory of an old subscriber to your Journal,

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

SAMUEL A. CARTWRIGHT, M.D.

New Orleans, Oct. 21, 1851.

[THE following *autopsia cadaverica* is on the authority solely of the writer. The dissecting-knife has revealed less venial faults in the dead than are here exhibited; but whether any were overlooked in this case, or whether the faults of other "bantlings" have been made more conspicuous than they should be, is not for us to decide.—ED.]

A POST-MORTEM EXAMINATION OF THE NEW YORK REGISTER
OF MEDICINE AND PHARMACY.—BY THE EDITOR.

To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.

SIR,—On the 26th of last April I left New York for the Isthmus of Panama, having been appointed one of the surgeons to the Panama R. R. Co. Before my departure, I placed my "offspring," the Register, in the hands of a friend, to act as foster-father in my absence, at the same time providing everything necessary for its support to the end of the first year, when, I was confident, it would be able to provide for itself; for, strange to say, young as it was, it already talked like a book, and many people seemed to be pleased with what it said, and contributed a dollar a year, towards supplying it with food and raiment, which entitled them to a chat with it every two weeks. Previous to this, however, I must say, that, to my surprise, I found that many of those who paid the dollar or graciously promised to do so, expected to be praised, or, at least, spoken of in such modest terms as the learned, the accomplished or the wealthy Dr. so and so, and particularly it was required by those interested in the public institutions here, that they should be spoken of in the "highest terms," of course; and one party adroitly hints that the "child" was too much on the fence, and that if it would jump off on the right side, and stay in that enclosure, it should have much done for its support. Now as I had always inculcated the observance of the strictest truth in all that was said, I was obliged to turn a deaf ear to this proposition, and remarked, that if my "child" stood upon the fence, it was that the fields might be explored on either hand, and that for no one-sided proposition would it ever come down. Now, strange as it may appear, soon after this stories were in circulation that the "child" was not well "brought up," that it made "great mistakes," and was not very "smart" after all; and, moreover, that people better keep away, or they would get "bit" with it, as it was exceedingly bad tempered. It so happened that a "brother" had a "bantling" also, that was a little older, and consequently thought to be stronger than mine, and which at first appeared once a week before the public, but finally adopted my appointments and terms, yet in all else was "right opposite."

This was the state of things when I left; but scarcely had I got fairly out to sea, when this babbling "bantling" commenced telling the strangest stories imaginable about this "child" of mine. In the first place, it said that I was not the "father" of it, but that it was the common "child" of a number of persons, and that they set it talking, and instructed it what to say, and supported it, and corrected its lessons for it, and that it was all to their praise and benefit. Now, with regard to the legitimacy of this "child" of mine, I have the most positive evidence

that neither of these persons ever had connection in any way with the party (the printers) that brought it forth, and knew not its way into the world until the presentation was announced to the public—that I had sole charge of its education, that I instructed it in all its original sayings, unless otherwise stated, and that I was alone responsible for its support—that it has never cost any one but a dollar, save myself,—and the pile of accounts for one year's subscription, handed in to me by the publisher as of no use, admonishes me that there are those who have received its semi-monthly visits regularly, whom it has not cost that sum, although among them there are some very respectable names indeed.

During last summer I wrote to the foster-father of my "child" here, that I expected to return before the year expired, but if it should so happen that I did not return, I trusted that my "offspring" would survive me, and continue to grow in good works. Now it so happened that I was unable to write instructions, or return in season, as I had expected, and therefore when I did arrive, on the 10th of October last, I found, to my sorrow, my "child" was dead, and that another one was born into the world and stood in its very tracks. In the absence of all information from me the case of my "child" became hopeless, and it was left to die suddenly—the bad stories that had been circulated against its character deterred any one from fathering it. By this I may not have been surprised, but I was surprised by the signs of the Times. I am not disposed to find fault that my child was left to die, for I could expect no one to take the responsibility of contracting for its year's subsistence—yet it might have been kept above ground with the chance of being revived; nor would I deny the right of any one to such children, if "got up" consistently with the regulations of society, nor raise a doubt but that the "child" of a bachelor may be legitimate. Now I have the most perfect confidence in the uprightness of the father of this new applicant for public favor, which is to come to us every month with such a bright clean face;—nor do I believe he ever intended to intimate by the paragraph in the last number, headed "Personal," that he considered the report that I was connected with him was discreditable to his "offspring." Indeed, he has just been in and assured me that he did not; and therefore if such a report had obtained a circulation in advance of the Times, I am under obligations to him for stopping it, for it surely has been enough for me to father my own "child." With this explication, I trust my brethren will have a better understanding of the causes of my affliction.

Your obedient servant,

C. D. G.

New York, Nov. 4, 1851.

OPERATIONS FOR STRANGULATED HERNIA.

To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.

DEAR SIR,—I promised, some time since, that I would furnish you, from time to time, with reports of some of the more interesting cases of hernia which might come under my notice; but having been, during a part of the time, absent from home, and for the remainder quite busily em-

ployed with professional and other duties, I have not done as I intended. I propose, however, to report for this, and some of the succeeding numbers of the Journal, several important cases of strangulated hernia, which have recently come under my observation, believing that they will prove acceptable to yourself and the members of the profession generally.

Boston, Nov. 1, 1851.

G. HEATON.

CASE I.—I was called, on the 3d of July last, to see a young man, of strong, athletic frame, a Frenchman, who had been in this country but a short time. He had been troubled, for many years, as he informed me, with a direct inguinal hernia on the right side, which during a great part of the time he had been unable to retain by the aid of a truss, and had consequently suffered much inconvenience from it. Some five or six days previous to my seeing him, he had broken his truss, and had neglected to have it re-placed. In consequence of this, the bowel had descended, and he was not able to reduce it. He called in a physician forthwith, who attended him for two or three days, trying at different times to effect the reduction, by the means usually employed; such as the warm bath, the application of leeches, the tobacco injection, &c., in conjunction with the taxis—but without success, as the tumor kept increasing, and finally became so tender, as not to admit of the farther trial of the taxis. At this crisis, I was called in, and on seeing the condition of the patient, gave it as my opinion that the operation had been delayed too long; that the inflammation had probably progressed so far, under the prolonged employment of the taxis, as seriously to jeopardize his life. The attending physician having been called in, however, I proceeded at once to the operation. I made the usual incision, some four or five inches in length, directly over the tumor, and by careful dissection reached the sac, which I opened, and brought its contents to view. I found the bowel, as I expected, highly inflamed and of a dark coffee color, and discovered one spot of the size of a dime, of a leaden hue. This portion, I supposed, would slough off; but on account of the mass of intestine which was down, I thought it best to reduce the whole, which I did (after dividing the stricture at the external ring), leaving the dark spot near the aperture. The treatment usual after the return of the parts, was followed, and the case closely watched. To my surprise, no sloughing took place, and the patient speedily recovered, suffering almost no other inconvenience from the operation than that of being confined to the bed until the external wound had healed, which required about two weeks.

On considering the length of time which elapsed in this case, from the first descent of the bowel, at which time the symptoms of strangulation began, until the operation, the long and forcible attempts at reduction, by taxis, together with the fact that the inflammation had advanced even to the incipient stage of gangrene, the recovery of the patient, I think, was remarkable, and shows that under the most unfavorable circumstances the operator need not despair of success.

CASE II.—On the 21st July, in the morning, I was sent for to see Mr. B., 76 years of age, who had been afflicted, for forty years, with an

inguinal hernia on the right side, which had been for a long time partially irreducible. On the afternoon of the day before, during a violent fit of coughing, this had become strangulated. A neighboring physician was immediately called in, who had recourse to the usual means of reduction by taxis, but to no purpose. On my arrival, as the symptoms, although specific, were not sufficiently urgent to justify an operation, I tried the taxis, but without any apparent diminution of the tumor. I called again in the afternoon, and finding that the tumor had increased to an enormous size, and the symptoms become quite violent, I decided at once upon the operation as the only means of saving the patient; although even this alternative appeared desperate, on considering his age, the size of the tumor, and the adhesions which its contents had contracted. A lengthened incision through the integuments, and a careful dissection of the fascia, brought to view a sac. This I at first supposed to be the true hernial sac. On opening it above, a pint of fluid escaped, and a second sac was exposed. I opened this cautiously, when a large quantity of bloody serum was discharged, and some eight or ten feet of intestine were brought to view. The appearance of this latter by no means relieved the doubts I had had as to the successful issue of the operation. It was of a very dark color, approaching to black, and thickly covered with a coat of coagulable lymph. I found the stricture at the outer ring, which being divided, I easily returned the intestine into the abdomen. The edges of the wound being brought together, were secured by sutures. Contrary to my expectation, the wound healed by first intention. The patient continued to improve daily, and, in ten days from the operation, was able to be about the house.

The points of interest in this case are, first, the great size of the tumor; 2d, the rare anomaly of the existence of two sacs, and the unusual quantity of fluid discharged from them; 3d, the condition of the strangulated portion of intestine, showing the importance of operating early, and that a delay of a few hours might have proved fatal to the patient; and, lastly, the rapidity with which he recovered.

CASE III.—On the evening of the day on which I performed the operation in the case just cited, I was called to visit Mrs. R., who had been troubled with a femoral hernia on the left side for some four or five years. As she had been able, during most of the time, to keep it back by the aid of a truss, she had not suffered much with it until the day before I saw her, when from some over-exertion it had come down and she had been unable to return it. The usual symptoms attending strangulation soon came on, and a physician was sent for. For some reason he did not surmise the true cause of her trouble, but concluded, from the general symptoms, that the patient was threatened with typhoid fever.

I saw her about twenty-four hours after the first descent of the hernia, and found her exhibiting all the aggravated symptoms of strangulated hernia—complete constipation of the bowels, the vomiting of fecal matter, violent pain in the abdomen, and a small tumor, painful to the touch, in the groin. As the soreness of the parts would not admit of the trial of the taxis, I proceeded at once to the operation, in presence of the attending physician.

MEDICAL JOURNAL ADVERTISING SHEET.

GENEVA MEDICAL COLLEGE. *Spring Course for 1852.*—The next annual course of Lectures will commence on the first Wednesday of March, 1852, and continue sixteen weeks.

CHARLES BROTHHEAD COVENTRY, M.D., Prof. of Midwifery, and Diseases of Women and Children.

JAMES HADLEY, M.D., Prof. of Chemistry.

JAMES WEBSTER, M.D., Prof. of Anatomy and Physiology.

CHARLES ALFRED LEE, M.D., Prof. of Materia Medica and General Pathology.

JAMES BRYAN, M.D., Prof. of Surgery.

WILLIAM SWEETNER, M.D., Prof. of the Theory and Practice of Medicine.

GEORGE W. FIELD, M.D., Demonstrator of Anatomy.

Fees for the course, \$62; Matriculation fee, \$3; Dissection fee, \$5. Graduation fee, \$30. Price of board, from \$1.50 to \$2.50 per week. Further information may be obtained by addressing JAMES HADLEY, Geneva, Oct. 6, 1851.

CHARLES A. LEE, M.D.,
Dean of the Faculty.
[Oct. 6—1851]

SMITH & MELVIN'S LIQUID EXTRACT OF OPIUM.—Containing all the desirable Alkaloids of Opium, in a natural state of combination, purified and rendered permanent. The want of a uniform preparation of Opium which should take the place of Laudanum, as usually prepared, has been long felt by physicians and others. Having been daily reminded, in dispensing medicines, of the uncertain strength, as well as objectionable qualities, of several preparations of this important drug, the subscribers were led to substitute for these a *refined chemical solution, prepared by them, of all the active medicinal constituents of Opium, rejecting the Narcotine and other deleterious compounds.*

This Fluid Extract is a solution of the Salts of Morphine, Codeine, Thebaine, Narcotine and Meconine, with Meconic and Malic Acids, in the same proportions as they naturally exist in the best Opium. They are extracted without change of composition, or addition, and rendered permanent in this form. Narcotine, and other exciting and deleterious compounds existing in the Opium, are completely removed. While, therefore, it possesses all the valuable properties of the Salts of Morphine, it has the higher claim of possessing the properties of the unadulterated drug for exhibition in cases not under the control of Morphia Salts.

Its strength is precisely that of the original official Laudanum, and this standard, accurately fixed, will be maintained in all its parcels bearing our signature. The purchasers will therefore obtain the native Morphia Salts at a lower price than that of the artificial, and will enjoy a less repulsive remedy than Laudanum, with entire freedom from the deaunement which artificial Morphia Salts often produce. Its anodyne action on the system is the same as that of the English Black Drop, while the debilitating and relaxing effects of that preparation are not produced by its continued use.

SMITH & MELVIN, Apothecaries,
April 9. 323 Washington street, Boston.

Certificate from Dr. A. A. Hayes.—"I have been requested by Messrs. Smith & Melvin, to analyze their preparation of the Salts of the Alkaloids in Opium, called *Liquid Extract of Opium*, and to examine their processes for preparing it.

This new medicinal preparation is the result of a beautiful pharmaceutical method, exhibiting both chemical and professional knowledge, applied with great skill and care. As stated by them, I find the *Liquid Extract* has been divested of Narcotine, and those substances deemed poisonous—certainly highly repulsive—while the natural Salts existing in Opium are retained in a nearly pure state.

I can most confidently recommend this as the best of the known compounds of the Opium Alkaloids, and the only one in which they are unaltered and rendered permanent.

Respectfully, A. A. HAYES, State Assayer.
1 Pine Street, Boston, 1st May, 1852.

PURE COD LIVER OIL.—Sold by PHILBRICK, CARPENTER & CO., Chemists and Physicians' Druggists, 150 Washington street, Boston. Oct. 16.

FRESH AND GENUINE DRUGS AND MEDICINES of all descriptions, carefully prepared for physicians' use, and for sale on the most favorable terms, at 33 Tremont Row, Boston, by

JOSEPH BURNETT,
(Successor to T. Metcalf.)
Feb. 10—17

PRIZE ESSAY ON CROUP.—The Boston Society for Medical Observation have not yet awarded the Prize, which was offered six months ago for the best practical *Treatise on Croup and its Treatment*. The same Prize is again proposed, and the period of competing for it extended to the first of January next.

All Dissertations must be accompanied by a sealed packet, on which shall be written some device or sentence, and within shall be enclosed the author's name and residence. The same device or sentence is to be written on the Dissertation to which the packet is attached. All unsuccessful dissertations will be deposited with the Secretary of the Boston Society for Medical Observation, from whom they may be obtained with the sealed packet, unopened, if called for within a year after they have been received. All dissertations, moreover, must be *rigidly* written, and forwarded, free of expense, by the first of January next, to one of the following gentlemen, who have been requested to act as judges.

JOHN WARE, M.D.,
President Massachusetts Med. Soc.

JOHN JEFFRIES, M.D.,
President Suffolk District Med. Soc.

EDW. H. CLARKE, M.D.,
Sec'y Boston Soc. for Med. Observation.

No prize will be awarded if no dissertation is thought worthy of one. Aug. 6—100cp

TINCTURES from English leaves of Hyoscyamus, Equis, Conium, Digitalis, Belladonna, and Aconite, Tinct. Indian Hemp. These Tinctures are of official strength. Sold by PHILBRICK, CARPENTER & CO. Nov. 6.

DENTAL AND SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS.—D. WALTHER & Co., successors to N. Hunt, manufacture and have for sale all kinds of Surgical and Dental Instruments and Implements. Old instruments ground, polished and repaired, at the shortest notice.

Orders will be attended to with promptness.
May 22—17 128 Washington street, up stairs.

DR. HEATON'S HERNIA INFIRMARY, BOSTON.—Dr. H. having returned from Europe, will receive patients as formerly. He continues to attend particularly to the nature and speedy cure of Hernia or Rupture, Varicocele, Scrotocoele, Hydrocele, &c., also to diseases of females. Trusses are dispensed with in all cases. Applications may be made at his office and residence, 2 Exeter Place, Boston. July 24.

CANTHARIDAL COLLOIDION.—A new Epispastic Remedy, and substitute for the ordinary preparations of Cantharides. It is speedy, convenient and powerful; can be applied to any portion of the body, and remain entirely unaffected by the movements of the patient. It requires the employment of neither leather or linen as in the use of the ordinary vesicating agents. Manufactured and for sale by PHILBRICK, CARPENTER & CO., Druggists, Jan. 23—17 150 Washington St.

ENGLISH HERBS.—Leaves of Hyoscyamus, Belladonna, Conium, Digitalis and Aconite, for sale by PHILBRICK, CARPENTER & CO. Nov. 13.

WINE OF COLCHICUM ROOT.—Sold by PHILBRICK, CARPENTER & CO. Nov. 13.

PREPARATIONS OF SILVER.—Nitrate in Crystals, Oxide, Iodide and Chloride, manufactured and for sale at 150 Washington street, Boston, by PHILBRICK & TRAFONT, Chemists. Nov. 13.

PURE CHLOROFORM.—For sale by JOSEPH BURNETT, Apothecary, No. 33 Tremont Row. Jan. 5—17

SUPERIOR GUNS, RESINS, &c.—Socotrine Aloes, Ammoniac, Guaiac, Myrrh, True Burgundy Pitch, sold by PHILBRICK, CARPENTER & CO. Nov. 6.

CUCUMBER OINTMENT.—Prepared and sold by PHILBRICK, CARPENTER & CO. Oct. 16.

FOR SALE.—The ride of a Practising Physician, worth 1,000 per annum. The incumbent wishes to sell horse, buggy, office fixtures, &c. Possession given immediately. For further particulars, inquire of R. F. JENNESS, Saccarappa, Maine. Oct. 17

MEDICAL JOURNAL ADVERTISING SHEET.

MEDICAL SCHOOL OF MAINE.—The Medical Lectures at Bowdoin College will commence on *Tuesday*, the 11th day of February, 1852.

Theory and Practice of Medicine, by WILLIAM SWETSER, M.D.
Anatomy and Surgery, by EDMUND R. PEASLEE, M.D.
Gynaecology and Diseases of Women and Children, by ASHES NOLAN, M.D.
Medical Jurisprudence, by HON. JOHN S. TENNEY, M.A.

The Library, containing about 3400 volumes, principally modern works—and the Anatomical Cabinet, are annually increasing.

Every person becoming a member of this institution, is required *previously* to present *satisfactory* evidence of possessing a good moral character.

The amount of fees for the Lectures is \$20, payable in advance. Graduation fee, including Diploma, \$15. The Lectures continue fourteen weeks. Degrees are conferred at the close of the Lecture Term in May, and at the following Commencement of the College in September.

P. CLEVELAND, Secretary.
 Brunswick, Nov. 1851. N12—cowot

DR. WILLIAMS will commence his Annual Course on OPTHALMIC MEDICINE AND SURGERY, on Thursday, November 20th, 1851.

At the Clinical and other lectures, which will be illustrated by a large number of cases, gentlemen will have opportunities for becoming practically familiar with the diagnosis of the various forms of Disease of the Eye, and with the application of remedies.

Opportunities for witnessing operations will also be given.

Terms—Five dollars for the course of two months. The first meeting of the class will be at Dr. Williams's residence, No. 32 Essex Street, on Thursday, November 20th, at 3 1-2 o'clock, P.M. N12—47.

A PHYSICIAN, residing about twenty-five miles from Boston, in a pleasantly situated farming town, is desirous, in consequence of ill health, of relinquishing his practice to some medical gentleman of respectability and professional talent. The location presents a rare opportunity, both immediate and prospective, for one wishing to obtain a lucrative and permanent practice.

For further particulars inquire at this office. 3*

COPARTNERSHIP NOTICE.—The Copartnership heretofore existing between the subscribers under the style and name of *Philbrick & Trafton*, is this day dissolved by mutual consent.

The business of the late firm will be settled by S. R. PHILBRICK, at 150 Washington street.

S. R. PHILBRICK,
 C. T. TRAFTON.

The undersigned have this day formed a Copartnership, under the firm of *Philbrick, Carpenter & Co.*, and will continue the Drug Business (heretofore conducted by Philbrick & Trafton) at 150 Washington street, Boston.

Saml. R. Philbrick,
 BENONI CARPENTER,
 LUTHER ATWOOD.

June 12, 1851. June 18—tf.

KOUSSO—Received by PHILBRICK, CARPENTER & CO. July, 1851.

ARTIFICIAL EYE AND ANATOMICAL PREPARATIONS imported to order by PHILBRICK, CARPENTER & CO. Physicians' Druggists.

NAPHTHALINE.—A new remedy highly recommended by M. Dupesquier, M. Rassignon and M. Emery, in various pulmonary complaints. Manufactured and for sale by PHILBRICK, CARPENTER & CO., Chemists, 150 Washington street, Boston. 217

GLASS WARE of every description, including German Bottles with accurately ground stoppers, from 1-4 oz. to one gallon. Also, wide and narrow mouthed Phials of white and green glass, of every size and variety, for sale in quantities to suit Physicians, by PHILBRICK, CARPENTER & CO. Nov. 13.

MATICO constantly on hand, and for sale by PHILBRICK, CARPENTER & CO. Nov. 6.

DR. H. W. WILLIAMS has removed to No. 33 Essex Street, opposite Rowe Street. Particular attention given to DISEASES OF THE EYE. Nov. 5—eply.

DR. J. V. C. SMITH, EDITOR of this JOURNAL, may be found at his Office, in the basement of the Tremont House, Tremont Street. Nov. 5.

DR. BOWDITCH will give, during the ensuing winter, his annual courses of instruction in *Practical Auscultation*, and in the *Diagnosis and Treatment of Thoracic Diseases*. Each course will consist of Clinical Lectures, Recitations, and of Auscultation in his wards at the Massachusetts General Hospital, and at two other large public institutions. Terms for a course of two months, \$10, payable in advance.

Dr. Bowditch will likewise receive private pupils in Auscultation, for a longer period, on the following terms, viz.:—For a year, \$40; for a half year, \$25, payable in advance.

The first meeting of the Class will be held at the residence of Dr. Bowditch, 8 Otis Place, at 4 P.M., Monday, Nov. 3. Sept. 24, 1851.—epdm

MATICO.—A fresh supply just received and for sale by JOSEPH BURNETT, No. 22 Tremont Row. Mch 17—tf

PHILBRICK, CARPENTER & CO., (late Philbrick & Trafton), PHYSICIANS' DRUGGISTS AND CHEMISTS, (Members of the Massachusetts Medical Society), 150 Washington street, Boston.

B. CARPENTER, M.D.,
 S. R. PHILBRICK, M.D.,
 L. ATWOOD, Chemist. July 14

TOBACCO OINTMENT, COMPOUND—Prepared and sold by PHILBRICK, CARPENTER & CO., Chemists, 150 Washington st., Boston. Nov. 31

NEW PREPARATIONS.—Tannate of Quinine, N Chloride of Sulphur, Chloride of Arsenic, manufactured and sold by PHILBRICK, CARPENTER & CO. Oct. 16.

HERRING'S CROTON OIL—for sale by PHILBRICK, CARPENTER & CO. Nov. 6.

CHLOROFORM, Concentrated Chloric and Sulphuric Ethers, for inhalation. Manufactured and sold by PHILBRICK, CARPENTER & CO., Chemists and Physicians' Druggists. Nov. 6.

MEDICAL PRESCRIPTIONS—Compounded day and night by PHILBRICK, CARPENTER & CO., Dispensers, 150 Washington street, Boston. 31 19

ROOMS TO BE RENTED.—Two or Three Spacious Rooms, over our Apothecary Store will be rented upon favorable terms, to a Physician, Dentist, or a Medical Association.

PHILBRICK, CARPENTER & CO.,
 Sept. 10.—tf 150 Washington Street.

NEW UTERINE SUPPORTER—Invented by Dr. ROBINSON, and far superior to his Improved Pessary—not liable to break nor corrode—small, worn with ease, can be applied by the patient, and answering all purposes, *where mechanical support is needed*. It has been examined, approved and used by many physicians. All are invited to call and examine it. Sold only by Dr. J. H. ROBINSON, wholesale and retail, at No. 4 Montgomery Place, Boston. Jan. 22—eplyr

VACCINE VIRUS.—Physicians in any section of the United States, can procure ten quills charged with *Pure Vaccine Virus* by return of mail, on sending the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal, enclosing one dollar, *post paid*, without which no letter will be taken from the office. Feb. 5

THE
Boston Medical and Surgical Journal

IS PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY,
 At 184 Washington St., corner of Franklin St.

J. V. C. SMITH, M.D., EDITOR.
 DAVID CLAPP, PUBLISHER.

Price.—Three dollars a year, in advance; after three months, \$3.50; if not paid within the year, \$4. For a single copy, 8 cents.

On opening the sac, I discovered a small convolution of intestine, considerably inflamed, in a strangulated state. I found some difficulty in reducing it, on account of the strong adhesions which it had formed to the sac, and the depth at which the stricture was seated. I found it impossible to get at the stricture without dividing a large artery, which I did deliberately. The ends, however, were easily secured by ligatures, and but little blood was lost. The adhesions having been removed, and the stricture divided, the intestine was easily returned. The edges of the wound were then brought together and secured, after which there were no unfavorable symptoms. The wound healed by first intention, and the patient recovered rapidly.

SYPHILITIC INOCULATION.—LETTER FROM PARIS.

[SOME of our readers will doubtless smile at the enthusiasm of the writer of the following letter from Paris. They must acknowledge, however, that he exhibits the spirit of thorough, scientific investigation; and though he describes what has taken place within the "syphilitic world"—which may be considered, we suppose, as confined to Paris—the matters referred to are of general interest to the profession, here as well as abroad.—ED.]

To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.

DEAR SIR,—I am anxious to communicate to the readers of your valuable Journal, a few words upon the great excitement that exists in the syphilitic world, at the present moment, in this city.

During the last few months, M. Auzias Turenne has advanced, that by repeated experiments he has succeeded in communicating the syphilitic virus from man to the monkey, and that he has produced the true primary chancre upon the monkey; in turn, communicating inoculable pus to man. M. Ricord, who has experimented, as all know, in every possible way with syphilitic virus, denies what M. Auzias advances. He thus explains the supposed success of M. Auzias: "that by frequent and constant applications of the syphilitic virus, he has merely established a depot for this virus upon the cutaneous surface of the monkey, and that the same virus has been re-transplanted from the monkey to man; any suppuration or appearance of true chancre being due to the constant irritation produced by the virus, as by any other foreign irritating substance. In fine, that the monkey's skin served merely as a soil for the seed, which did not germinate." However, time and renewed experiments will alone prove this question.

But the most interesting portion of my communication does not relate to the monkey tribe, but to the human subject. M. Auzias also holds forth to the world that he cures secondary syphilitic symptoms, not by medical agents, but by the process of inoculation. Here is something new! What does he do? He inoculates an individual already suffering from secondary symptoms, with inoculable virus taken from another source, and he produces the true primary chancre. This he continues to do until the system of the patient refuses to receive the virus, or until, in other words, the inoculation remains without effect. He does not say

how many chancres will be necessary, but in the case of a young physician, whom he brought forward at the Hospital du Midi, this morning, as a proof of his assertions, he had inoculated upwards of sixty times. He now considered him impregnable, and maintains that his constitutional symptoms, under which he was laboring at the time he commenced, are entirely eradicated.

M. Ricord, with the consent of all parties, this morning inoculated this martyr to science, with pus taken from chancres upon three different patients in his wards. Upon all three, artificial chancres then existed, proving the quality of the virus. M. Auzias considers his patient as impregnable—time will prove whether M. Ricord's lancet will be more successful.

This constituted the first experiment ever made by M. Ricord in inoculating the human subject with virus taken from another individual—moral and just views having prevented him from so doing. I need not add, that he fully expects to see a well-established primary chancre following his inoculations, for he denies that any peculiar idiosyncrasy exists, which renders any individual impregnable to syphilitic inoculation.

M. Auzias also gives forth, that, in the same way, by repeated inoculations he can render any individual impregnable to syphilis. He inoculates and produces primary chancres until he can produce no more. The patient cannot have secondary symptoms. By what laws this result is brought about, he does not pretend to have yet discovered. M. Auzias and his school have full confidence in what they maintain. Time alone can decide.

I feel confident that something new is about to be added to our present knowledge of syphilis. What a glorious discovery, if we find that, by inoculation, we may render the services to the human family, that vaccination has done! I assure you that the excitement and zeal shown here upon the subject are worthy of the cause.

D. D. SLADE, M.D., of Boston, Mass.

Paris, Oct. 21, 1851.

THE BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

BOSTON, NOVEMBER 12, 1851.

Boston Medical College.—Those who listened to the introductory lecture of the new professor of Chemistry, on Wednesday last, speak of it in commendatory terms. An expectation is indulged that the long-neglected branch of chemistry, so necessary to a complete medical education, will be raised in this excellent school to a commanding position. We have been sounding it in the ears of the Faculties of all the Medical Colleges, that Chemistry did not receive sufficient attention with them, and that most of the colleges were wofully negligent and culpably blameable. Chemistry, to a physician, is as necessary as mathematics to an astronomer.

Dental Improvements.—Another and important achievement has recently been made by Dr. Allen, of Cincinnati, in the construction of what is tech-

nically called plate-work, that is regarded with peculiar interest by dental operators. Heretofore, the blocks or single teeth, when riveted to a plate, leave exposed crevices, owing to the impossibility of making a perfectly air-tight fit; and into these crevices the saliva and food find their way, and become sources of offence, under the best efforts with a brush. The improvement consists in soldering the teeth firmly and securely to the plate, as one piece of metal is brazed to another. The union is so perfect, that no fluid can percolate under or between. Those who have spoken of this improvement, used the highest expressions of approbation. Dr. Allen seems to have very much advanced the art, and gone quite beyond the chemists, who have found it a difficult matter to unite an earth with a metal or metallic compound, in the manner shown in this discovery.—Trusting that a scientific description of the process, and a statement of the benefits to be expected by patients from the improvement, will come from a competent source, the further consideration of the subject will be postponed for the present.

School for Idiots.—Correspondents very naturally wish to know what success attends the efforts making in Boston for the education of idiots. The institution is in its infancy, but making good and satisfactory progress. Whenever a report is made to the Legislature, it will be published.

The Plague.—It is very certain, from the accounts received both here and in England, that the true plague has been introduced into Madeira—and the work of death has been appalling. The question has been agitated—will that dreadful disease ever reach this continent? There is reason to believe it will; and the wonder is, why it has not been here already. Our commercial intercourse is extensive with various parts of Africa and the Asiatic shore of the Mediterranean, where this great scourge is never dead or dying, but simply reposing from one period to another, like a fatigued giant, to gather strength for a renewal of slaughter. Should it come, it may be hoped that there will be found more science and a stronger barrier of medical skill to meet and disarm it of its terrors, than has been exhibited in tropical climates, or in the filthy, scourge-inviting regions of moslem Turkey. Plague appertains to the Arabs, in this age; and where the same condition of things exists as characterizes their modes of life, their social condition, their apathy, and the absence of all common-sense efforts to avert or arrest it, there it will have an abiding foothold.

Malgaignes' Operative Surgery.—This is one of Blanchard & Lea's elegant octavo volumes, and one of peculiar practical value to the profession. It was translated from the French, in 1846, by Frederick Brittan, M.D. Its illustrations are by Dr. Westmacott—but they are too few in number, and are inferior specimens of engraving in the United States. Both the type and paper are good, and it is altogether an imposing volume, aside from the character of its contents, which extend to 565 pages. The work is divided into three parts, and all the subjects are methodically arranged. Part I. embraces general elements of operations—as incisions, cauterizations, ligatures; means of preventing effusions of blood; re-unions, and the way of diminishing pain in operations. Part II. treats of common operations in minor surgery; on the skin, muscles, nerves, veins, arteries, bones and articulations; re-sections, amputations, &c. Part III.

is devoted to operations on the eyes, auditory apparatus, olfactory region, mouth, throat, thorax, abdomen, rectum, bladder and genital organs. In short, it is a perfect treatise, leaving no one subject untouched, of the least practical value to the surgeon. It is a suggestive book, and therefore possesses an additional interest and claim. To be had at Ticknor & Co.'s, Washington street.

Carpenter's Physiology.—A second edition of this excellent volume, which has a reputation as extensive as the globe, with 190 illustrations, revised from a new London edition, has just appeared at Philadelphia. Students will no doubt avail themselves of the numerous alterations the author has introduced into this volume. As further evidence of its correctness, it may be mentioned that the sheets have been under the vigilant eye of Dr. F. G. Smith, of Philadelphia. As every body at all familiar with the medical literature of the day, fully understands the intrinsic worth of Dr. Carpenter's labors, we conceive it only necessary to apprise the profession of the treasure prepared for them, to ensure the publishers a generous remuneration for their enterprise. This, too, is from the publishing house of Messrs. Blanchard & Lea.

MacIise's Surgical Anatomy.—Part V., completing the series, with 68 colored engravings, of the highest value to operators and students in surgery, may be had in Boston, at Ticknor & Co.'s. No I. was never received at this office—which is much regretted, since it deprives strangers, who wish to examine the engravings, of the opportunity of judging for themselves in respect to their execution and coloring. The publishers should be liberally encouraged. Messrs. Blanchard & Lea deserve it for their spirited efforts in furnishing American physicians with editions of the best and most recent productions of Europe, far below their cost in England on or the continent. On looking over the opinions expressed by professors in many of the leading schools, their testimony is uniformly favorable in respect to the accuracy of the anatomical delineations of these plates.

Sylvester Graham.—A kind but unsatisfactory comment, in one of our city papers, on the death of this individual, by our friend Dr. Alcott, brings to mind our own personal recollections of Mr. Graham. With regard to his system of a strictly vegetable diet, it may be said that he found in physiological works all the materials in it that were of any value, and appropriated them to building up an edifice to perpetuate himself. He borrowed liberally, and his ignorant followers believed him to be the originator of facts and suggestions as old as the records of medical science. His vanity, which was excessive, it is charitable to suppose was connected with a mental peculiarity that could not be controlled. We have a distinct recollection of hearing him say that Dr. Roget's Bridgewater Treatise was stolen from himself! He was obtrusive, and in whatever society he happened to be placed, such was the irrepressible energy of his will, that though sometimes he at first went up like a rocket, he was as sure to come down like a stick. He wore every body out who listened to him; and if they were unwilling to be his tools in propagating his peculiar regenerating views, most of which were intended to change the whole order of society and break up the foundations of the common system of domestic economy,

he denounced them as enemies who were determined to limit his sphere of action and cheat him of the glory that belonged to his name. He was permitted on several occasions to publish articles in this Journal, some of which were well drawn up, and free from ultraism. He himself felt assured that what he had prepared would open the eyes of the medical profession, and produce the happiest results in the community. But no approbation was elicited by them, except from his friends and followers; on the contrary, their publication in the Journal was strongly objected to by gentlemen of the first medical distinction, and by the readers generally. This only roused Mr. Graham to offer longer and more objectionable papers; and when plainly informed that he involved us and injured himself by these measures, his wrath was excited, and it is not certain that he ever forgave us for not allowing him to control the pages of the Journal in such a manner as to spread abroad his *great doctrines*. Mr. Graham's fame is a local one, which will not survive the lifetime of some of his disciples. His memory is associated with bran-bread—and not with any striking event, principle or doctrine, that will carry it onward upon the wave of time as a benefactor of the human race.

With regard to the most important matter connected with Mr. Graham's death—viz., whether his system of living had any influence in hastening it, and thus preventing his enjoyment of that "green old age" which, it was understood, was to be the reward of his followers, Dr. Alcott, as already stated, presents nothing very satisfactory. He intimates that a Dr. Trall, of New York, has important facts to disclose; but a note from Dr. T. himself states that he is not yet prepared to publish them. Dr. Alcott makes a few statements, which, though evidently apologetic in their character, may in fairness be inserted here. He says, 1st, that Mr. G. was in his 58th year, instead of "about 50" as mentioned in this Journal a few weeks since.

"2. He had by inheritance a feeble constitution. His father, an inhabitant of Suffield, Ct., was, as I have always heard, near 70 years older than Sylvester—and the latter was among the youngest of a large family.

"3. He did not become a 'Grahamite' till he was nearly 40 years of age—till his constitution had become much impaired by wrong habits.

"4. He was of a constitution and temperament which naturally rendered him mentally precocious, and predisposed him to nervous and scrofulous maladies. Few, if any, public men with such a temperament have been as healthy, or lived as long as he.

"5. He was not sustained in his supposed office of reforming the world by that co-operation which might have been expected in the domestic relations. Those who know this part of his history will not be surprised that he ran down so soon. The wonder is that he held out so long.

"6. It does not appear that he was true to his own system. Mr. Hunt, in the New York Tribune, says he made to his friends many confessions. But that these errors were not great, would seem probable after all, from the results of post-mortem examination. It is not quite clear, moreover, that his medical management was judicious, or rather that he followed out any general plan."

Complete and long-continued Paralysis.—The Eastport (Me.) Sentinel gives the following account of a remarkable case. Perhaps some physi-

cian among our subscribers in that vicinity can give us further information respecting the cause of such an attack of paralysis, occurring, as it seems to have done, in early life.

"There is a woman at Campobello (near here) who has lain upon her bed for *sixteen years*. She was prostrated after a child-birth, became paralyzed, and has never recovered. The child lived, was healthy, and is now a fine young woman. The woman is not capable of moving any of her limbs in the slightest manner, and cannot sit up. She can hear, but cannot speak loud or distinct. What is very remarkable she appears to be fleshy, has a fair countenance, and a good appetite, though on account of her immobility her food is given in thin or liquid form. She does not change for the worse, but remains as she has been for many years. Her bed is made by rolling her from one side to the other, and she has no acute pain. Her hands remain crossed upon her breast—her fingers are white and smooth almost as ivory. It is singular that in this inert state of her body, the process of digestion should go on so regularly as it does. Nothing is done for the restoration of this woman. She is now about 40 years old, and during her confinement has seen her husband die in the same room occupied by herself."

Death of Dr. Badeley, of Chelmsford, England.—Most of our readers have doubtless been interested in the perusal of the Lumleian Lectures, on the "Reciprocal Influences of Mind and Matter," which are now in course of publication in this Journal, copied from the London Medical Gazette. It will therefore be a subject of surprise and grief to them to learn of the sudden death of their author, Dr. Badeley. The particulars of this melancholy occurrence, as we learn them from the London Lancet, were as follows.

"On Sunday afternoon the deceased was afflicted with a severe attack of the toothache, and it continued without intermission all the following night. About four o'clock on Monday morning he went down into his study for the purpose of taking something to alleviate the pain, and, unfortunately, he inadvertently partook of some morphia, and his untimely decease was the result. Mr. Bransby Cooper was sent for by a telegraphic despatch, and all the members of his profession in the town were in attendance, but their combined efforts to save his valuable life proved abortive. Dr. Badeley leaves behind him a family of, we believe, ten children, besides a very numerous circle of friends. Dr. B. was well known to his professional brethren as an accomplished and talented physician, and was the author of several works connected with medicine. He delivered the Harveian Oration last year at the College of Physicians. Only a few weeks since, we noticed his last production, consisting of Lectures on the Mind. Dr. Badeley was an agreeable companion, possessed of a kindly but sparkling wit, and was very happy in his jests and epigrams, some of which have appeared in this journal anonymously. His melancholy death will be regarded as a loss by the profession generally."

The remainder of the Lectures alluded to, which will now be invested with a saddened interest, are devoted to the subject of insanity, and will be inserted as space will permit, after giving the preference to articles by our own correspondents.

Middlesex East (Mass.) District Medical Society.—The annual meeting of the Middlesex East District Medical Society was holden at Reading, on

Wednesday, the 5th of Nov. inst. The following gentlemen were elected as officers for the ensuing year :—

Dr. Horace P. Wakefield, of Reading, *President*. Dr. Alonzo Chapin, of Winchester, *Vice President*. Dr. Truman Rickard, of Woburn, *Secretary*. Dr. Augustus Plympton, of Woburn, *Treasurer and Librarian*. Dr. Moses Parker, of Melrose, *Auditor*. Drs. Benjamin Cutter, of Woburn, Erastus O. Phinney, of Melrose, Joseph D. Mansfield, of South Reading, *Censors*. Drs. Benjamin Cutter, of Woburn, Moses Parker, of Melrose, Augustus Plympton, of Woburn, *Counsellors*.

T. RICKARD, *Secretary*.

Boston Dispensary.—The following are the officers chosen for the ensuing year :

Managers—Samuel May, N. L. Frothingham, Pliny Cutler, James H. Foster, H. Crocker, Ebenezer Chadwick, N. H. Emmons, Samuel Bradlee, J. H. Wolcott, Francis Parkman, George H. Kuhn, William Dehon. *Treasurer*—Edward Blake.

Consulting Physicians—S. D. Townsend, M.D., Jacob Bigelow, M.D., Phineas Crane, M.D.

Visiting Physicians—Dr. E. B. Moore, Ward 1, 133 Hanover street; Dr. M. B. Leonard, 2, East Boston; Dr. Robert Greer, 3 and 4, 132 Hanover street; Dr. Thomas F. Oakes, 5, 6 Pitts street; Dr. J. C. Sharp, 6, 15 Joy street; Dr. J. M. Sharkey, 7, Federal, corner of Purchase street; Dr. G. F. Bigelow, 8, 425 Washington street; Dr. W. B. Morris, 9, Beach street; Dr. E. T. Eastman, 10, 7 Summer street; Dr. E. E. Herrick, 11, Washington, corner of East Dedham street; Dr. J. S. H. Fogg, 12, 305 Broadway, South Boston.

Nature's Chemistry Inexplicable.—There appears to be something anomalous in the effects of light on some flowers, which seems to render Nature's chemistry inexplicable. Probably some of your readers may solve the problem. For instance, it is said that when light is excluded from vegetables or flowers, they become white, and the inference which most students have arrived at, is, that light is the principal cause of the difference of color, modified in different kinds by some difference in their structure. That the exclusion of light does certainly blanch some kinds of vegetables, is now admitted as an axiom in vegetable chemistry; for example, the endive, the celery, the white cabbage, &c.; and although the deprivation seems to induce the colorless condition of those mentioned above, it is not a law, otherwise it would be universal. And my object, therefore, in this brief paper, is simply to mention a few facts which seem to be exceptions. The *hibernum opulus* (guelder rose) has a green flower in the first instance, which gradually becomes white if the weather is fine and the light intense, the flowers under such stimulus assuming a most beautiful opaque whiteness. They remain for weeks in this colorless condition, and are finely contrasted with the dark-green leaves which surround them; and so delicate is the whiteness of the flowers that they are popularly called "snow-balls." So also the *lilium albus*, &c., present similar phenomena.

Can it be explained why the *hibernum opulus*, &c. &c., seem to be exceptions? That all the rich variety of colors in the domain of Flora, court the light which gives them their beautiful shades and tints, and in those

we have named, that its presence should banish from them every vestige of hue or color, shows that we have still much to learn on the chemical effects of light.—J. L. LEVISON, in *London Lancet*.

The Custody of Inebriates.—(Letter from De Beauvoir de Lisle, M.D., of Guernsey, to the Editor of the *London Medical Gazette*).—SIR,—Your number of the 29th ult., p. 370, contains an extract from the *Boston Medical Journal* relative to the formation of a "*hospital for the custody and treatment of inebriates*," which appears to deserve attentive consideration.

The want of such an establishment has often been experienced in the Channel Islands, where the low price of ardent spirits affords to the votaries of Bacchus, whether natives or strangers, males or females, every facility for indulgence in their baneful propensity—nay, it would seem that troublesome relatives and dependents have sometimes been sent across the Channel by parties anxious to get rid of them.

It has been my lot to attend some of these unfortunate beings, and I have long felt that a well-appointed establishment for their temporary or permanent reception might effect incalculable good. The inebriate, amongst the upper and middle classes of society, are generally more weak than wicked—their qualities of heart and head are masked, but not obliterated. Religion and philanthropy, interest and national vanity, point to the remedy proposed—a *hospital or sanatorium for inebriates*.

Medical Miscellany.—A rumored re-appearance of the sweating sickness in Europe, is eliciting remarks from the Medical Journalists.—Dr. Sanborn's splint is gaining friends rapidly.—Bowel complaints have not wholly disappeared. The unnaturally warm moist weather, some weeks back, has probably influenced the malady very considerably.—Household Surgery, by Mr. South, published in New York, has not been seen in Boston yet.

TO READERS AND CORRESPONDENTS.—The present number of the *Journal*, it will be perceived, comprises twelve additional pages—thus allowing space for some of the original communications which were awaiting insertion, and at the same time making up for the occasional use, lately, of an extra page for advertisements. In cases where four extra pages of advertisements have recently been issued, it will have been noticed that in every instance an inset of four pages of reading matter has accompanied the same number.

Dr. Jarvis gives a faithful and graphic description, in his address in to-day's *Journal*, of the causes of insanity. Some familiar instructions, from the same pen, respecting the means of avoiding the frequent effect of these causes, would, accompanying this address, make a useful pamphlet for general distribution.

Dr. Cartwright, who truly describes himself "an old subscriber to this *Journal*," having been a subscriber for more than a quarter of a century, presents fair claims as the originator of two modern or revived modes of practice—one in Medicine, and the other in Surgery. We recommend the remarks of this highly-respected veteran in our ranks to the attention of the reader.

Dr. Mitchell's paper, before acknowledged, will appear next week. One by Dr. Cummings will also have an early insertion.

DIED.—Dr. John Vanderpool, of Valatie, N. Y. At Darien, Dr. Warren Percival, 68.—At Bristol, R. L. Jabez Holmes, M.D.

Deaths in Boston—for the week ending Saturday noon, Nov. 8th, 76.—Males, 35—females, 41. Accidental, 3—apoplexy, 2—disease of bowels, 2—disease of brain, 1—consumption, 11—convulsions, 6—croup, 3—dysentery, 3—diarrhoea, 1—dropsy, 1—dropsy of brain, 2—drowned, 2—typhoid fever, 2—typhoid fever, 4—brain fever, 2—lung fever, 6—gastritis, 2—hooping cough, 1—disease of heart, 1—infantile, 4—disease of kidneys, 1—marasmus, 1—measles, 1—old age, 2—palsy, 1—puerperal, 2—scrofula, 1—teething, 2—disease of throat, 1—unknown, 3.

Under 5 years, 29—between 5 and 20 years, 10—between 20 and 40 years, 18—between 40 and 60 years, 11—over 60 years, 8. Americans, 26; foreigners and children of foreigners, 50. The above includes 1 death at the City Institutions.